

New Hampshire Special Education On-site Evaluation Report

**CROTCHED MOUNTAIN
REHABILITATION CENTER, INC.
Barbara Cohen, Principal**

Final Report

March 30, 2000

Evaluation Conducted on

February 3 and 4, 2000

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New Hampshire Special Education On-site Evaluation Report

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(Commendations, Citations, and Suggestions for each program)

Note: *It should be noted that suggestions are not considered corrective actions and therefore are given as technical assistance. The private facility is not mandated to implement them.*

New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval Summary Evaluation Report

Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center

I. INTRODUCTION:

A New Hampshire Special Education Program Approval visit was conducted at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center. The on-site team met on February 3 and 4, 2000, in order to review the status of Special Education services being provided to eligible students.

Activities related to this evaluation included the close review of all the application materials which were submitted by the school and a check of teaching certifications of special education personnel. In addition, interviews were held with the Principal, special education teachers, regular education teachers, counselors, parents and related service personnel as availability permitted. The team also randomly inspected and reviewed student files from the school, including the file of a student who falls under the James O' Consent Decree. Throughout the visit the team had full cooperation from the school personnel, which was greatly appreciated.

The report which you are about to read represents the consensus of all the members of the visiting team. Please keep in mind that this is a "report for exception", meaning that only exceptions to the N.H. State Standards have been addressed. If a component is not mentioned, that does not mean that the team did not review it; it just means that there were no exceptions to the Standards found in that particular area.

II. STATUS OF PREVIOUS ON-SITE: *April 3-4, 1995*

Based on review of the previous Program Approval report, as well as materials submitted for the 2000 visit and a random review of student records, the team determined that the two citations listed in the previous Program Approval report have been resolved.

The previous report reflected a very well designed educational facility that offered quality programming to multiply handicapped, medically fragile and emotionally challenged students. The report listed numerous commendations pointing to the overall excellence of the education programs. Commendations noted included: a comprehensive curriculum, good relationships with the local school districts, ample staff development opportunities, skilled staff, well developed IEP's, an outstanding school principal and a spirit of teamwork and enthusiasm among all school staff.

The two previous citations related to minor omissions. The current visiting team found generally well organized student records that included comprehensive student information. It was further apparent that the overall services offered to Crotched Mountain students are well designed and highly effective.

III. ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The visiting team found the services offered at Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center to be of high quality. The team found a facility that is in very good condition, with apparent ongoing renovations in an effort to maintain the current physical status. The team also acknowledged a very skilled, knowledgeable and well certified staff who

demonstrate an exceptional ability to provide uniquely designed individual programming for each student. The team further noted that students attending Crotched Mountain are well cared for and are provided with excellent therapeutic and educational supports. The atmosphere throughout the school facility was warm, enthusiastic and supportive. The curriculum and instruction offered is well developed and is age and ability appropriate. The staff are commended for their recent and ongoing efforts to connect their curriculum to the New Hampshire Curriculum Frameworks and for their recent work toward implementing the New Hampshire Alternate Assessment for third, sixth and tenth grade students.

The team found that the few minor citations reflect oversights in record keeping. They suggest that ongoing training related to state and federal guidelines continued to be offered in an effort to keep staff fully aware of changing procedures. However, the team also acknowledged the range of professional inservice training opportunities presently offered to staff.

The visiting team found that the specialized expertise offered to students at Crotched Mountain is impressive and would benefit other New Hampshire school districts as they seek information regarding the delivery of services to significantly disabled students. Crotched Mountain staff already offer consultative services to area school districts and the visiting team encourages continued efforts in this area.

Crotched Mountain has established a Human Rights Committee that is asked to review individual student behavior plans calling for any restraint conditions. The visiting team suggests that a review of the procedures used by this committee take place in an effort to insure that confidentiality is guaranteed for each student.

As Crotched Mountain looks to the future they may find a larger role in the education and outreach support they can offer parents, colleagues and other service providers throughout the state and region. The visiting team would like to thank the Crotched Mountain staff for the welcoming spirit found during this program approval visit and congratulate them on the excellent work they do on a daily basis.

COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

COMENDATIONS:

- The Crotched Mountain staff are commended for their quality work on behalf of all of the students attending the school. It was very apparent to the visiting team that the children are cared for in the best possible way.
- The school staff are commended for the high quality instruction offered to Crotched Mountain students and for the work done to connect the curriculum to the New Hampshire Frameworks.
- The school Principal is an outstanding leader. The results of her efforts are well established and reflected in the programs.
- The administration is commended for providing the school staff with the appropriate resources necessary to provide excellent services to this complex group of students.
- The school is also commended for the breadth of staff available to provide services.
- The school facility is completely accessible and in excellent condition, including the exceptional library media center, the swimming pool, the gymnasium, the vocational and academic areas and grounds.
- The media center is a model resource for individuals with disabilities and is highly commended for its welcoming and aesthetic appeal as well as the creative and innovative features found throughout.
- The vocational courses and resources offered at Crotched Mountain are impressive.
- The school is also commended for its well established connection to the surrounding communities.
- The School Partnership Program is commended for it's outreach component and for the important sharing of resources and information to local community programs.

- The assistive technology and augmentative communication services at Crotched Mountain are state-of-the-art and are a great resource to the educational program.
- The administrative structure is effective and provides a clear system for communication and shared knowledge for this complex system.
- The school provides a safe, clean and cheerful learning environment.
- The behavior programs are well designed and appear to be very effective.
- The wide range of professional development opportunities made available to staff is commendable.
- The school staff are commended for the integration of Crotched Mountain students into area public schools, when appropriate.
- Transition work done with students preparing to return to the community, or to graduate, is working well.
- The residential environments are clean, attractive and appropriate. The communication between residential and school staff seems to be effective and ongoing. The apartment opportunities for older students provides excellent transition training and real life experiences.
- The instructional staff do an excellent job of creating age appropriate activities for severely cognitively challenged students.
- The level of respect that staff offer to their students is to be commended.

CITATIONS: (in numerical order)

Ed#1113.01 1 file: No documentation of vocational evaluation determination.

Ed#1109.04 3 files: Notice of IEP meeting does not include a list of those invited.
300.345(b)(1)

Ed#1107.06 1 file: Evaluation summary is not found in record.
300.534(a)2

Ed#1109.04 1 file: No explanation of why student would not participate in NHEIAP assessment.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Clarify confidentiality policy to be used with the Human Rights Committee to insure protection of confidentiality for all students.
- Offer special education training for Case Managers who may not be fully familiar with all State and Federal guidelines related to the special education process.
- Continue staff development training for all staff specific to the recent reauthorization of IDEA.
- Include list or explanation of individual student medical conditions/complications in student records, specifically as they may impact the IEP.
- Consider reducing the caseload for Case Managers to a more manageable level.
- Continue marketing and offering services, resources and training to both at Crotched Mountain and throughout the state. The knowledge, skill and areas of specific expertise found within the Crotched Mountain professional community is impressive and can serve as an important resource to school districts.

ADDENDUM

JAMES O. MONITORING PROGRAM

Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Student File Review

Case Study Document

Reimbursement Claim Form

Case Study Addendum Form

<p style="text-align: center;">ADDENDUM JAMES O. MONITORING PROGRAM</p>

Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

CITATIONS:

Ed#1123.03(1) 1 file: Record missing statement of Written Prior Notice.

SUGGESTIONS:

- The records reviewed at Crotched Mountain were found to be comprehensive and organized. The single oversight does not indicate a pattern of concern. The school staff are commended for their overall good work on behalf of students place at the school.